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RE: The Copyright Office needs your opinion on the DMCA and the DVD/DeCSS issue.

I am the President and CEO of a small development and design firm located in Milford, Ohio – near Cincinnati. At our offices we primarily use PC systems with the Linux OS to perform our development and day-to-day activities. At times we have been asked to produce, prototype and/or view MPEG2 and/or DVD material for possible use in a project. In these activities the DeCSS program has been invaluable, without it we could not have done our job. With the recent media coverage of the possible pirate uses and unknown legality of the usage of the DeCSS program we have lost two clients who were afraid we were doing something illegal in providing them with perfectly legal services. The total damage to us is unknown at this time, but the future damages – if the DeCSS program is “outlawed” could be irreversible to my company both in terms of current clients who may discontinue the usage of our services and the potential new clients who we will never have a chance to do business with on the basis that we may have participated in an illegal activity.

Furthermore, the entire idea that the DeCSS program is in any way related to DVD piracy is a moot point. For various reasons it is much easier for the would-be pirate to use other means to “copy” the DVD, including the simplest of hooking their home DVD players output to a video capture card – hitting play and hitting record, effectively bypassing the encryption scheme altogether. The basis of the DeCSS program was not and is not to promote piracy, but to allow individuals and businesses such as mine to view legally obtained DVD works on any system of their choice, such as Linux.

Thank you,

Brian R. Mueller  
President and CEO  
CreoTech  
“We are the future”